

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the application. The specification is amended to correct minor errors. It is believed that no new matter is added to the application by this Amendment.

Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11-18 are pending in the application. The Examiner has acknowledged the allowability of claims 9, 10 and 18. Claims 4, 5 and 10 are canceled by this Amendment. Claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter from claim 3 and allowable claim 10. Claims 2, 6 and 9 have been amended to remove extraneous recitations. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to improve their language and antecedent basis. Claim 16 has been amended to correspond to the amendments to claim 1. Claim 18 has been amended to not depend on a canceled claim.

Also, claims 1 and 16 recite the term "hydroxyaluminum." Applicants note that "hydroxyaluminum" refers to an inorganic polymer represented by the formula $[Al_2(OH)_nCl_{6-n}]$ rather than to aluminum hydroxide.

Statement Of Substance Of Interview

The Examiner is thanked for graciously conducting a telephonic Interview with the Applicants' representative on August 16, 2006. During the Interview, potential amendments to claims 1-18 were discussed, including removing language pertaining to zeta potential. The

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Examiner requested a clarification of the term "hydroxyaluminum." Also, the patentability of the invention over the cited art of Reid (GB 22452943 A) was discussed.

At the end of the Interview, the Examiner prepared an Interview Summary. The Interview Summary has been reviewed, and it appears to accurately reflect the content of the Interview.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claim 9 for its recitation of a positive zeta potential. The claims have been amended to remove references to positive zeta potential, thus mooting the Examiner's objections.

Rejections Over Reid

Claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Reid (GB 2245294 A). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reid. Applicants traverse.

Allowable claim 10 has been canceled and its subject matter (including the subject matter of any intervening claims) has been incorporated into claim 1, thus rendering claim 1 instantly allowable. Claims depending upon claim 1 are patentable for at least the above reasons.

These rejections are overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Prior Art

The prior art cited but not utilized by the Examiner indicates the status of the conventional art that the invention supersedes. Additional remarks are accordingly not necessary.

Foreign Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged foreign priority in the Office Action mailed May 17, 2006.

Conclusion

The Examiner's objections and rejections have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action. No issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

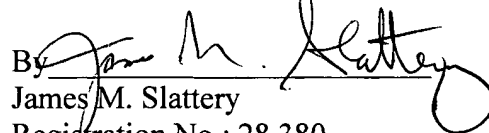
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$120.00 is attached hereto.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 18, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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